

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)

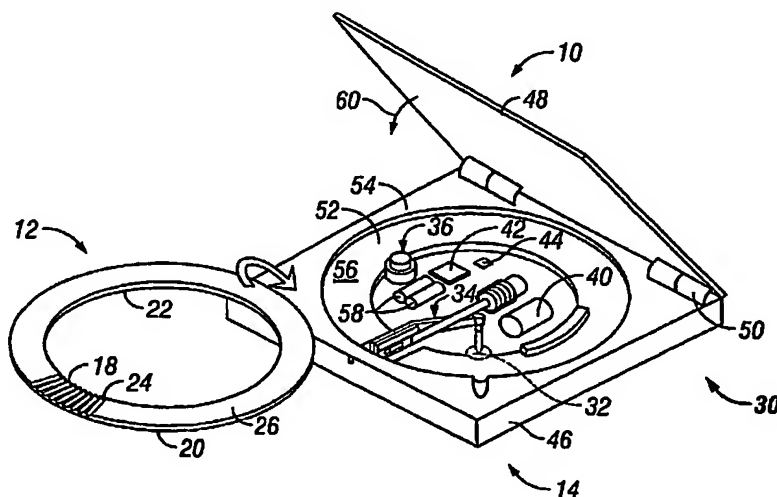
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/060446 A3

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ :	G01N 21/76,	60/437,341	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
	21/64, 27/00, C12M 1/34	60/437,342	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
(21) International Application Number:		60/437,343	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
	PCT/US2003/041702	60/437,345	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
(22) International Filing Date:		60/437,346	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
	30 December 2003 (30.12.2003)	60/437,347	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
(25) Filing Language:	English	60/437,386	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
(26) Publication Language:	English	60/437,454	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
(30) Priority Data:		60/437,455	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
		60/437,510	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
		60/437,514	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US
		60/437,323	31 December 2002 (31.12.2002)	US
60/437,184	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,185	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,186	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,191	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,192	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,312	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,333	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,334	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,335	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,336	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,337	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
60/437,340	30 December 2002 (30.12.2002)	US		
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS USING OPTICAL TECHNIQUES TO MEASURE ANALYTE LEVELS



(57) Abstract: A device (10) is provided for use with a tissue penetrating system and/or a metering device for measuring analyte levels. The device comprises a cartridge (12) and a plurality of analyte detecting members (742, 760, 808) mounted on the cartridge (12). The cartridge (12) may have a radial disc shape. The cartridge (12) may also be sized to fit within the metering device (10). The analyte detecting members (742, 760, 808) may be an optical system using fluorescence lifetime to determine analyte levels. In one embodiment, the device (10) may also include a fluid spreader (826) positioned over at least a portion of the analyte detecting members (742, 760, 808) to urge fluid toward one of the detecting members. A plurality of analyte detecting members (742, 760, 808) may be used. Each analyte detecting member may be a low volume device.



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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, EG, ES, FI (utility model), FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK (utility model), SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

30 September 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/41702

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G01N 21/76, 21/64, 27/00; C12M 1/34;
US CL : 422/58, 82.08, 98; 435/288.7; 600/573, 583, 584

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 422/58, 82.08, 98; 435/288.7; 600/573, 583, 584

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,858,804 A (ZANZUCCHI et al.) 12 January, 1999, see description of figure 1b.	1-4,15,16,18,24

Y		30
A	US 5,096,669 A (LAUKS et al.) 17 March 1992, see description of figure 1.	1-40
A	US 5,912,134 A (SHARTLE) 15 June 1999, see description of figure 2.	1-40
A	US 6,375,627 B1 (MAUZE et al.) 23 April 2002, see description of figures 3a,3b,4.	25-27,32,33-35

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

07 July 2004 (07.07.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

03 AUG 2004

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